

Lakeside Press (Now Triangle
Publications Building)
731 South Plymouth Court
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HABS No. ILL-1020

HABS
ILL,
16-CHIG,
22-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

LAKESIDE PRESS (Now TRIANGLE PUBLICATIONS BUILDING)

Location: 731 South Plymouth Court, northeast corner
of Plymouth Court and West Polk Street,
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

HABS
ILL,
16-CHIG,
22-

Present Owner
and Occupant: Triangle Publications.

Present Use: Printing plant.

Statement of
Significance: The Lakeside Press, designed by Howard Van Doren
Shaw, is one of the few large buildings designed
by any of the group of architects identified as
the Prairie School.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: The chain of title for this property is recorded in Book 468-A, pp. 35-37, Cook County Recorder's Office, Chicago. Description of property: Lots 11, 14, 17 and 20 of subdivision of Block 135 of School Section Addition to Chicago Section 16-39-14.

At the time the present building was built, the property was owned by Albert E. Kent and wife, and leased through Naomi A. Donnelly et al. to the publishers R. R. Donnelly and Sons (document 2498782). The property was acquired by Naomi A. Donnelly in 1912 and continued to be occupied by R. R. Donnelly and Sons (documents 5024413 and 6107659). Triangle Publications acquired the property from the Celia Company in 1941 (document 12534703).

The building has also been known as the Plymouth-Polk Building and as the R. R. Donnelly Building.

2. Date of erection: 1897.
3. Architect: Howard Van Doren Shaw (1868-1926).

B. Source of Information

Randall, Frank A., History of the Development of Building Construction in Chicago. Urbana: The University of Illinois Press, 1949. p. 145.

Prepared by Larry J. Homolka, Historian
National Park Service
August 1963

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural interest and merit: This is a large, brick commercial building. Shaw, the architect, was a member of that group of architects who have been identified as the Prairie School, close friends sharing common ideals and looking to the leadership of Frank Lloyd Wright. Shaw, though associated closely with this group, was more conservative in his architecture than most of the others, and his own work often reflects both the contemporary eclecticism and also the influence of the arts and crafts movement. The Lakeside Press is one of the few large buildings designed by any of the Prairie School architects. Their most important work was residential.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Number of stories: Seven stories plus one basement.
2. Number of bays: West front is divided into eight bays.
3. Over-all dimensions: About 200' (west front) by 100'.
4. Layout -- shape: Rectangular.
5. Foundations: Foundations do not show above ground.
6. Wall construction, finish and color: Smooth limestone piers on the ground floor level, brick above. Red brick, common bond. Limestone trim is used for the belt courses, decorative blocks, medallions, quoining,

door and window frames. The walls from the third floor through the seventh floor are treated as one arcade with colossal pilasters.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Wide limestone doorway with free classical frame, flat members. The large opening is subdivided with windows and door with metal frames. Medallions and cartouches are carved into the stone doorway. An emblem over the doorway shows an Indian with Fort Dearborn in the background, and is inscribed "Lakeside Press." The emblem is repeated at the tops of the pilasters of the upper arcading.
- b. Windows: Metal windows with small panes of glass are double hung in most places. There are metal spandrels between the floors in the arcaded area of the upper wall. Semi-circular windows at the top floor complete the arcade motif.

8. Roof

- a. Shape, covering: Flat.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Simple stepped brick cornice.
- C. Site and Surroundings: The Lakeside Press is in a commercial area of downtown Chicago. Its long side faces west on Plymouth Court, its south side faces Polk Street, and an alley runs along the east, rear side.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Supervisory
Architect
National Park Service
August, 1963